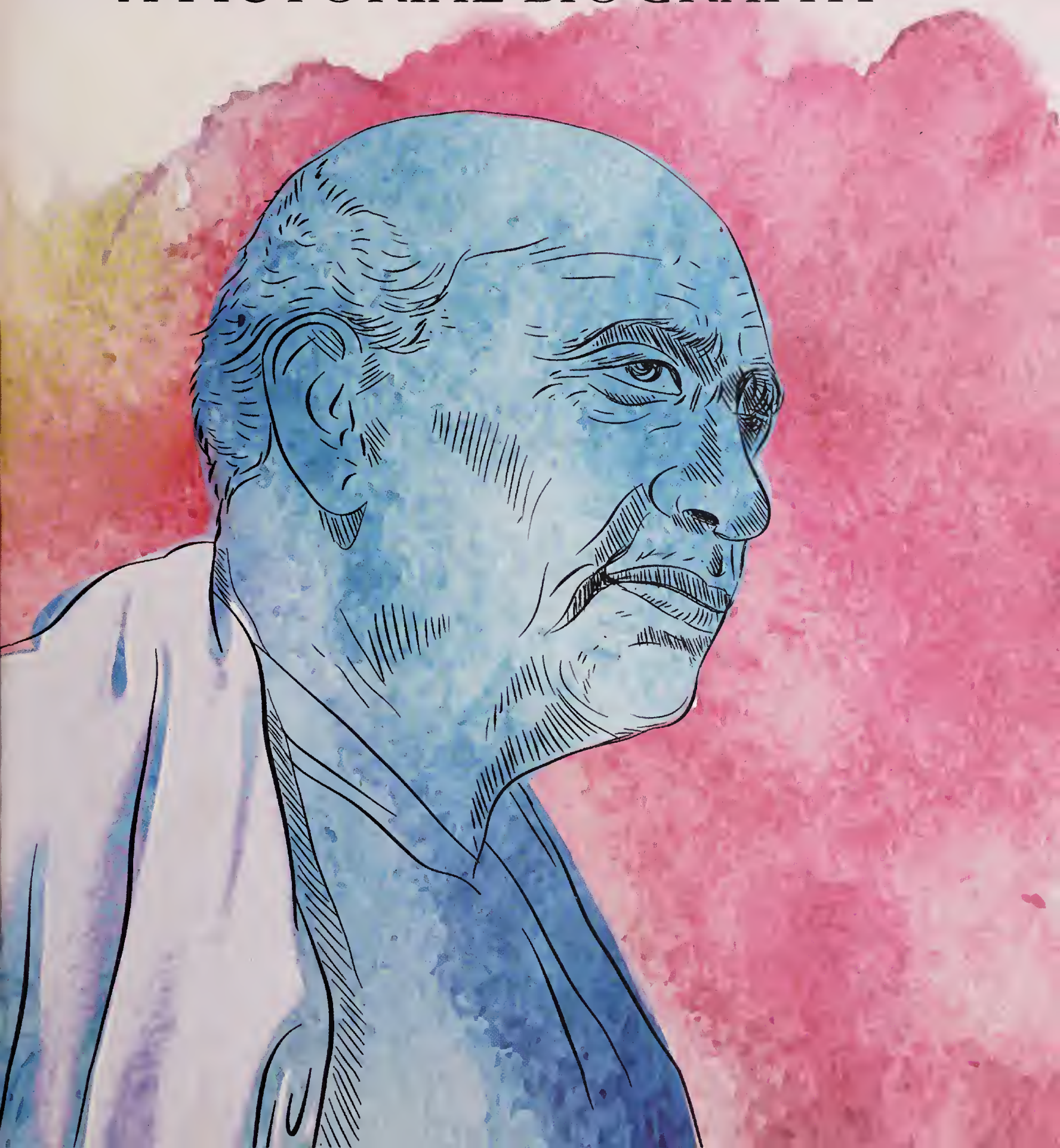


SARDAR PATEL

A PICTORIAL BIOGRAPHY





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PUBLICATIONS DIVISION
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

First Edition: 1975 (Saka 1897)
Revised Reprint: 2015 (Saka 1936)

© Publications Division



ISBN 978-81-230-1982-6

BIO-ENG-REP-059-2014-15

Price: ₹ 220.00

Published by

The Additional Director General, Publications Division,
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India,
Soochna Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110 003.

Website: www.publicationsdivision.nic.in

Editing: S. Manjula | Shamila KY.

Designing: Ujjual Gupta | Pranav Kumar
[www.i-imazine.com]

Photographs Courtesy:

Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi
Photo Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

Typeset at: Print-O-World, 2579, Mandir Lane, Shadipur, New Delhi-110 008

Printed at: J.K. Offset Graphics Pvt. Ltd., B-278, OIA, Phase-I, New Delhi-110020

Sales Centres: • **Delhi**—Soochna Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003 • Hall No. 196, Old Secretariat, Delhi-110054 • **Mumbai**—701, B Wing, 7th Floor, Kendriya Sadan, Belapur, Navi Mumbai-400614 • **Kolkata**—8, Esplanade East, Kolkata-700069 • **Chennai**—‘A’ Wing, Rajaji Bhawan, Besant Nagar, Chennai-600090 • **Patna**—Bihar State Co-operative Bank Building, Ashoka Rajpath, Patna-800004 • **Thiruvananthapuram**—Press Road, Near Govt. Press, Thiruvananthapuram-695001. • **Lucknow**—Hall No. 1, 2nd Floor, Kendriya Bhawan, Sector 8, Aliganj, Lucknow-226024 • **Hyderabad**—Block 4, 1st Floor, Gruhakalpa Complex, M.G. Road, Nampally, Hyderabad-500001 • **Bangalore**—1st Floor, ‘F’ Wing, Kendriya Sadan, Koramangala, Bangalore-560034 • **Ahmedabad**—Ambica Complex, 1st Floor, Paldi, Ahmedabad-380007 • **Guwahati**—House No. 07, New Colony, Chenikuthi, K.K.B. Road, Guwahati-781003

VALLABHBHAI JHAVERBHAI PATEL occupies a prominent place among those heroic men and women who worked for India's freedom and helped not only to win it but also to consolidate it. Although he came to public life only in his early forties, his thirty-three years of work in the cause of the nation is full of many-splendoured achievements. Along with Gandhiji, Jawaharlal Nehru and some other leaders, he dominated the politics of the country during the crucial thirty years from 1920 to 1950. He was not only a great leader of the masses but also a far-seeing statesman and an able administrator who handled with consummate mastery and finesse the complex problems facing the new Government. In the words of Jawaharlal Nehru, "History will record many things about him in its pages and call him the builder and consolidator of new India..."

Vallabhbhai Patel was born on October 31, 1875 at Nadiad in Kheda district of Gujarat. His parents Jhaverbhai Patel and Ladbai came from peasant background. It is said that his father had in early life enrolled himself in the army of Rani of Jhansi and fought against the British. Vallabhbhai was the fourth son in a family of five brothers and a sister.

He received his early education at Karamsad and then at Petlad, a small town about eleven kilometres away, in a school where English was taught up to the fifth standard. He matriculated from the Nadiad High School. His family could not finance his college education and, therefore, he prepared for the District Pleaders' examination for which he had to borrow most of the books. He passed the examination and took up law practice at Godhra, later shifting to Borsad, where he became quite proficient in handling criminal cases.

Like the illustrious American President Abraham Lincoln, Vallabhbhai Patel was a self-made man who had worked with his father in the fields till he was seventeen. In 1893, when only 18, he married Jhaverbai. In 1909 at the age of 34, his wife died after an operation in a Bombay hospital. When the news reached him at Borsad, he was in court arguing in a murder case. Totally unruffled, he went on arguing the case. But the news had stunned him. He never married again.

Vallabhbhai was keen on going to England and studying for the Bar and saved money for the purpose. He wrote to a travel agency to arrange his passage. The firm addressed its reply to V.J. Patel and, as chance would have it, the letter was delivered to his elder brother Vithalbhai, who also wanted to go to England but had no money. Vallabhbhai not only let him go but also undertook to support his family during his absence. Vallabhbhai himself went to England later. He passed his final Bar-at-Law examination with first position and distinction for which he was awarded a cash prize of £50. He returned to India in February 1913 as a full-fledged barrister. On Vallabhbhai's arrival, Sir Basil Scott, the Chief Justice of Bombay, offered him an appointment in the Government Law School which Vallabhbhai declined. He did not want to serve

the British Government. Patel specialised in criminal cases and soon had a flourishing practice. At this time, Patel's mode of living and dressing up was like that of a European. He was fond of playing bridge. He decorated his office with up-to-date furniture which, according to Sheth Kasturbhai, a leading businessman of those days, was unique. He was a member of the Gujarat Club, rendezvous of Ahmedabad's fashionable society.

It was in 1917 that Patel first came in contact with Gandhiji, having been impressed by his leadership in the Champaran satyagraha. About this time, Gandhiji became the President of the Gujarat Sabha which held its first Political Conference at Godhra in November. Vallabhbhai was appointed as its Secretary. The same year, he was elected as a member of the Ahmedabad Municipal Board. Later, he became its President. He organised very successful relief operations during floods, drought and epidemics.

Vallabhbhai's political career had a modest beginning. The first campaign organised jointly by Gandhiji and Patel was the Kheda satyagraha from March to June, 1918, in which, though the victory was not decisive, the sturdy peasantry of Vallabhbhai's home district learnt the lesson of fearlessness. A year later, when Gandhiji was arrested in April 1919, the people of Nadiad and Kheda soon showed the Government that they were not as mild as they looked.

The non-cooperation movement which Gandhiji launched on August 1, 1920 was a novel experiment in human history. No wonder, opinion even in the nationalist ranks was not united in support of it. Vallabhbhai, however, gave his whole-hearted support to Gandhiji's programme and even before the special session of the Congress was held at Calcutta in September, he used his influence with the provincial leaders at the Gujarat Political Conference in August 1920 to persuade them to commit themselves to Gandhiji's programme and to recommend its adoption by the Congress. Though the movement failed in its political objective, Vallabhbhai's work had a deep impact by changing the climate of opinion in Gujarat, and eliminating from it the influence of old-style moderate politicians.

The non-cooperation movement was a watershed in India's long struggle to achieve freedom. For the first time after 1857, the British again felt their hold over India shaken. However, after the withdrawal of the movement following the Chauri Chaura incident in February 1922 and Gandhiji's arrest in March, the British Government seemed to be as firmly in control as ever.

Then came the Borsad satyagraha of 1923, when Gandhiji was in jail, and later in 1928, on a much more impressive scale, the Bardoli satyagraha. The epic struggle of Bardoli, which constitutes one of the most glorious chapters in the history of India's struggle for freedom, brought out in bold relief the basic traits of Vallabhbhai's personality—an indomitable will and perseverance, a fine sense of strategy and

calculation, complete identification with the espoused cause, total disregard of sentimentalism, an iron discipline imposed upon himself and those working with him and selflessness to the point of self-denial. Bardoli, in fact, was a unique personal triumph for Vallabhbhai. It was in acknowledgment of the efficiency with which he conducted the movement that he was acclaimed as the 'Sardar'—the leader, a title by which he came to be known to the nation ever since.

The Dandi March, in 1930, electrified the people with a new self-confidence. After the symbolic breaking of the Salt Law by Gandhiji on the Dandi beach on April 6, the spirit of defiance spread like wildfire throughout the country. Hundreds of young soldiers of Gandhiji's non-violent movement braved police assaults as they raided the Government salt depots at Dharasana and demonstrated a type of courage and self-restraint which the world had never seen before. Prominent women of Gujarat organised picketing of foreign cloth shops and liquor booths and, by their disciplined strength, brought about a change in women's status which even a century of reform movement had failed to achieve. The achievement was largely Vallabhbhai's.

Even before he entered politics, Vallabhbhai had become known for his sturdy independence both as a lawyer and a city father. He had humbled two arrogant British civilians and a British engineer foisted on the municipality by the British authorities and had obliged all three to leave. During the non-cooperation movement, Vallabhbhai had persuaded the Municipal Council with the support of the teachers, to make the primary schools independent of government control. After Gandhiji's arrest in March 1922, Vallabhbhai remained a firm 'no-changer' in the controversy over the formation of the Swaraj Party, led by C.R. Das and Motilal Nehru. He demonstrated the effectiveness of direct action, by taking up the leadership of the Flag satyagraha in Nagpur in July 1923, and organising the people of the Borsad taluka in the Kheda district to resist payment of an unjust punitive tax imposed on the taluka by the British Government. Re-entering the municipality in 1924, Vallabhbhai became President of the Council, and during his four years in this office set an example of rectitude and efficiency which won the admiration even of his critics. During the unprecedented Gujarat floods of July 1927, the Sardar was on his feet from the very first night of the deluge and worked tirelessly week after week. Gandhiji was then in Bangalore, but Vallabhbhai and his band of workers had already learnt the art of disciplined service and did their work so well that even Lord Irwin, during his visit to Gujarat in December, publicly acknowledged the superb efficiency of the relief operations organised by the Gujarat Congress.

Thanks to this constructive approach to political work, the Congress had struck deep roots among the common people of Gujarat. When Civil Disobedience Movement came, Sardar Patel was among the first national leaders to be arrested. That was on March 7, 1930, a few days before the Dandi March commenced. But whether in jail

or out of it, he received unstinted co-operation from the volunteers who had responded to his call, and they made a complete success of Gandhiji's programme of defiance of salt laws and boycott of foreign cloth. Though refusal to pay land revenue was not a part of the campaign, several villages in Borsad and Bardoli talukas refused to pay the tax even at the cost of their lands and other possessions.

Gujarat's massive contribution to the national movement was gratefully recognised by the nation when the Sardar was made President of the Congress which met at Karachi in the last week of March 1931 to consider and approve the Gandhi-Irwin Pact. It was an extremely difficult situation for any Congress President to handle, for the execution, a few days earlier, of Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru, had enraged the nation beyond measure and ratification by the Congress of the Gandhi-Irwin agreement seemed almost an impossibility. But Vallabhbhai softened the opposition by himself condemning the execution as "heartless" and promising resumption of the struggle after six months, if the parleys at the Round Table Conference failed.

They did and Gandhiji returned empty-handed. The Government had made advance preparations to crush the Civil Disobedience Movement, and within a week of Gandhiji's landing in Bombay, all the leaders were arrested. This time Vallabhbhai was lodged in Yeravda jail with Gandhiji. Their days together in jail from March 1932 to April 1933 have been delightfully chronicled by Mahadev Desai who joined them later. He has described Vallabhbhai's mother-like concern for Gandhiji's comfort and his infectious humour about which Gandhiji remarked, "I have in my little camp of four a special privileged jester in Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. He succeeds in bending me almost double with laughter over his unexpected sallies. Gloom hides her fiendish face in his presence. No disappointment, however great, can make him gloomy for long. And he will not let me be serious for two consecutive minutes. He will not spare even my saintliness." Gandhiji, after release from jail, spoke of the tender feelings of Sardar Patel. In his words, "...I was well aware of his matchless bravery but...I never knew him to possess motherly qualities. If the slightest thing happened to me, he would be out of his bed. He superintended every detail in connection with my comforts."

The Sardar's loyalty and affection did not, however, stand in the way of his disagreeing with the Mahatma when occasion demanded. For example, Vallabhbhai insisted on getting back the Gujarat Vidyapith library which, with Gandhiji's consent, had been handed over to the Ahmedabad Municipality while Vallabhbhai was in jail. Vallabhbhai had come to the aid of the Vidyapith when it was in financial difficulties during the twenties and had collected for it as much as ten lakh rupees. The Vidyapith had all along been rendering invaluable national service by producing alumni, qualified and willing to do work in the villages. When after the withdrawal of the Civil Disobedience Movement in 1934 the Vidyapith was revived, Vallabhbhai was made its Vice-

Chancellor and later, after Gandhiji's death, Chancellor. The collection of books which Vallabhbhai thus saved in 1934 has now become one of the biggest libraries in Ahmedabad and the Gujarat Vidyapith continues to supply well-trained village workers.

Sardar Patel was among the front-rank leaders who appreciated Gandhiji's intention of resigning from the Congress in 1934, to devote himself to the revival of village industries, and rendered all possible assistance to the new programme.

When the Congress decided to contest the elections to the Central Legislative Assembly in November 1934, the main burden of the election campaign fell on Vallabhbhai and, though he himself had never been a whole-hearted supporter of the parliamentary programme, he became, from then on, more and more involved in parliamentary activities. Later, as Chairman of the Parliamentary Board, Vallabhbhai was overall in charge of the Congress election campaigns both in 1937 and 1946. He established an efficient machinery not only for winning the elections but also for co-ordinating the work of the ministries and ensuring that they faithfully carried out the Congress' policies and worked under the direction of the national organisation. The Sardar's work during this early phase of the parliamentary programme was of inestimable value in creating an all-India framework for the functioning of provincial ministries and thereby preparing the ground for the evolution in post-independence India of a truly national political outlook.

Another sensitive problem which required most careful handling was, that of the freedom struggle in the Indian states. With the winds of change blowing in British India, the subjects of the princely states were getting restive and beginning to organise themselves for civil and political rights. The Congress policy, laid down at Gandhiji's instance, had been one of avoiding direct interference in the affairs of the states and till then Gandhiji had even discouraged satyagraha in the states. This policy had the support of Vallabhbhai. They both knew that once the protection of the British Government ended, the Indian princes would not be able to resist the demands of their subjects, and they also felt that the princes would be patriotic enough to co-operate with the leaders of British India as soon as they were free to do so. But when Congress ministries started functioning in the provinces, the atmosphere in the country changed and the political organisations in Indian states began to demand affiliation with the National Congress and its support in their struggle against their rulers. At the Haripura Congress Session, in February 1938 the Congress agreed to recognise organisations of the states' subjects and guide their movements. At the Tripuri Congress Session in March 1939 the policy was further revised and the struggle of the states' subjects was made part and parcel of the national struggle for freedom. The Sardar had all the time been in close contact with the leaders of the states' subjects in Gujarat and now began to take more active interest in guiding them. He presided over the conferences of the Prajamandals of Baroda and Bhavnagar states and entered into

negotiations with the Rajkot ruler on behalf of the states' subjects. The struggle in Rajkot became an all-India issue and brought Gandhiji too on the scene. All these experiences gave Vallabhbhai a first-hand picture of the condition in the Indian states and an insight into the working of the minds of Indian princes.

With the outbreak of the Second World War in September 1939, the national struggle entered its last phase and the Muslim League's demand for Pakistan added to it a dimension which was a challenge even for the phenomenal moral influence of the Mahatma. The events took such a turn and communal unrest reached such proportions that the majority of the national leaders became convinced that the choice was between partition, as demanded by the Muslim league, and anarchy in the country. Vallabhbhai had all along opposed the demand for Pakistan, but he also accepted the Mountbatten plan for partition in the prevailing circumstances. Accordingly, the Congress Working Committee took the fateful decision to accept it.

The 'finest hour' in the life of Sardar Patel came when, as the first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister, he had to deal with the incorporation of over 560 princely states in the Indian Union. Lord Mountbatten, who had frequently discussed this subject with him, has written, "We were, of course, particularly closely associated in dealing with the future of the 565 princely states. My instructions from the British Government were to hand back paramountcy to all the rulers on the transfer of power to British India. This would then in theory have created 565 entirely independent sovereign states within the borders of the Indian subcontinent... There is no doubt that the high-minded statesmanship which Vallabhbhai Patel displayed throughout these very difficult negotiations made it possible to find a solution."

All the princes had entered into agreements with the paramount power and all were jealous of their rights and privileges. To persuade such a motley crowd to come to terms with the new India was a Herculean task. Sardar Patel appealed to their sense of patriotism and said, "We are at a momentous stage in the history of India. By common endeavour we can raise the country to a new greatness while lack of unity will expose us to fresh calamities. I hope the Indian states will bear in mind that the alternative to co-operation in the general interest is anarchy and chaos which will overwhelm great and small in a common ruin if we are unable to act together in the minimum of common tasks."

On October 15, 1950 Sardar Patel died of cardiac arrest in Mumbai. The grateful nation conferred upon him the honour of Bharat Ratna in 1991.

U.N. Dhebar, renowned freedom fighter in a commemorative lecture on Sardar Patel on September 5, 1975 said, "His contribution is oftentimes compared to that of Bismarck of Germany. If one goes, however, into the history of Germany as related by H.G. Wells, one would understand the great difference between the two. First,

the integration of states, that took place in India was on a much vaster scale. Secondly, it had to be worked out in much greater depth in India. Thirdly, there was a qualitative difference in the process adopted in the two countries...

What was achieved in the brief span of two or three years and what we have inherited is something which everyone can be proud of—a united country under a single constitution, under a single parliamentary forum elected on the basis of adult suffrage, a united economic framework and a united army...."

Once when a seasoned worker was facing some domestic problem and wanted to retire, the Sardar said, 'When I joined Gandhiji, I collected some firewood, lit a fire, put all considerations of my family, my career, my reputation and everything in the fire. I do not know what would be left of all these except the ashes.' True to his words, when he died, his personal clothing was his only belonging.

Paying tributes to Sardar Patel, *the Manchester Guardian* wrote, 'Patel was not only the organiser of the fight for freedom but also the architect of the new State when the fight was over. The same man is seldom successful as a rebel and a statesman. Sardar Patel was the exception'.

SARDAR PATEL

OCTOBER 31, 1875 - DECEMBER 15, 1950



EARLY LIFE



Sardar as a school boy



Mother Ladba



Parental house of Sardar Patel at Karamsad, where he spent his childhood



Village school at Karamsad where
Patel took his first lessons



High school at Nadiad from where he completed his matriculation

LEGAL CAREER



As district pleader at Borsad,
Kheda district



Lawyer Vallabhbai

Sardar Patel leaving for study
of bar-at-law, 1910



Vithalbhai and Vallabhbhai as
barristers-at-law on the latter's return
from England in 1913.



Residence of Sardar at Bhadra, Ahmedabad

EARLY POLITICAL CAREER



Leader of Nagpur
Flag Satyagraha



During Borsad Satyagraha against
Punitive Police Tax, 1923



Sardar Patel with his colleagues, Shri Hariprasad Desai, Shri. Jivanlal Diwan, Shri. Indulal Yagnik, Shri. Ganesh Mavlankar, Shri. Mohanlal Pandya and others during Kheda Satyagraha



Barrister Vallabhbhai
during Kheda Satyagraha

GANDHIJI DURING THE KHEDA SATYAGRAHA, 1918

Caring little for his lucrative legal practice,
Vallabhbhai joined the movement under the
leadership of Gandhiji, who later said about
Vallabhbhai

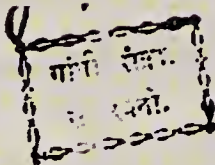
*"If it were not for his assistance, I must admit that
this campaign would not have been carried through
so successfully."*



Patel as President of Ahmedabad Municipality,
leading Gandhiji at a civic reception, 1925



Gujarat Vidyapith Convocation


 Vallabhbhai
 Sarojinidevi says I should
 go there for moral reasons
 In my presence at
 necessary am still useful
 for a time in the or long
 discussions conferences
 Bapu

Message dated August 8, 1927 in Gandhiji's
 hand telegraphed from Bangalore

Vallabhbhai organised flood relief work in Gujarat.
 Above is a message dated August 8, 1927 in Gandhiji's hand
 telegraphed from Bangalore where he was convalescing.

Vallabhbhai's reply was characteristic

*"If you wish to give us an opportunity to show you how well we have learnt
 what you have taught us and how we are putting into practice the training that
 you have been giving us for the past 10 years, do not come."*



Mother Ladba with her five sons (L to R))Vithalbhai, Somabhai, Kashibhai Narsinhbhai, Vallabhbhai, 1927



Sardar Patel with brother Vithalbhai Patel

THE SARDAR

AFTER THE BARDOLI TRIUMPH



His victory in the Bardoli Satyagraha won him the name “Sardar.”
Thereafter he emerged as an all India leader.



Sardar Patel with N C Kelkar, President of the Conference convened for supporting Bardoli Satyagraha



With Maulana Azad, Bhalubhai Desai,
Abdul Ghaffar Khan and Kanaiyalal
Munshi during a visit to Bardoli

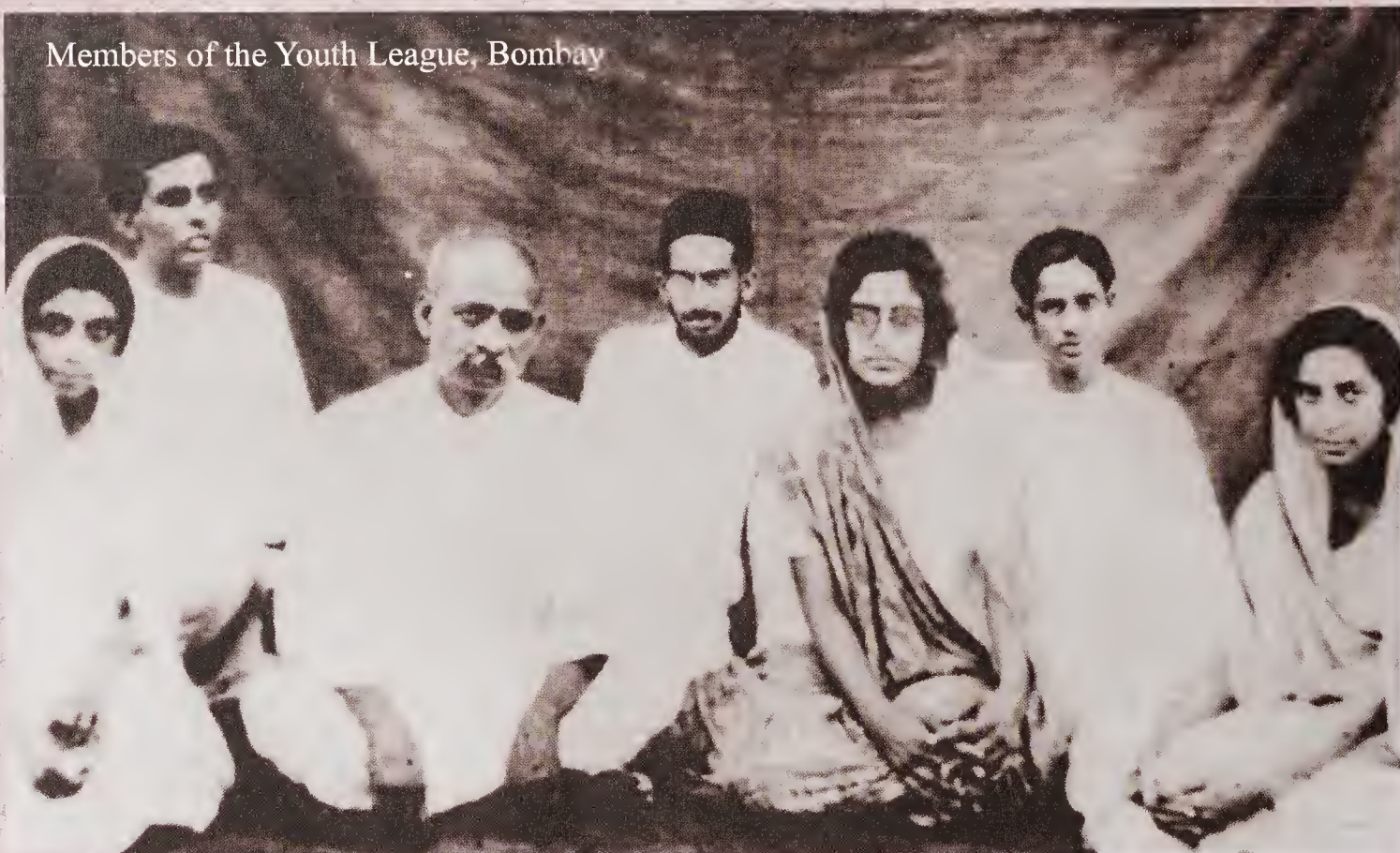


After the victory of Bardoli Satyagraha

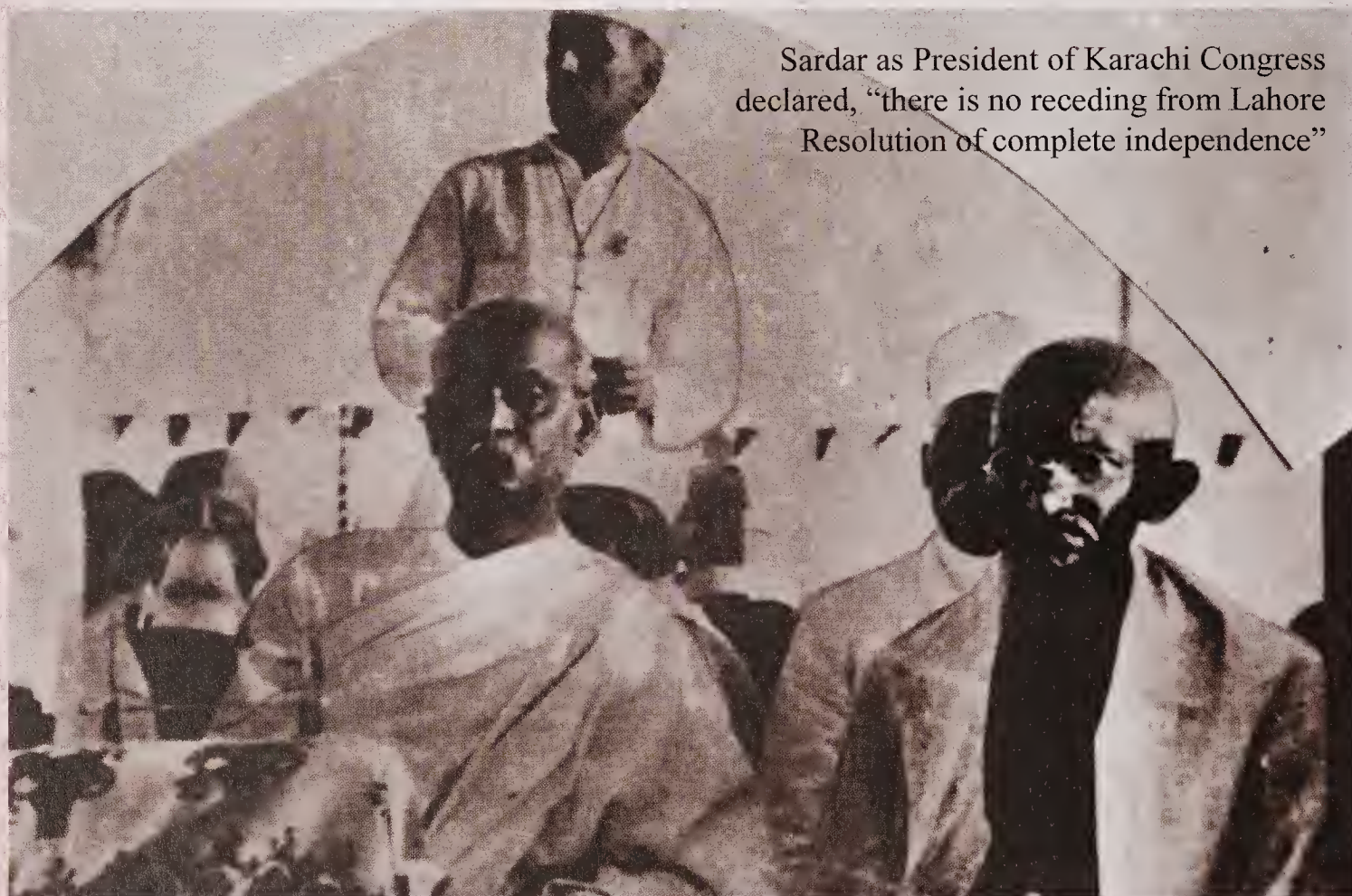


Sardar's residence at Bardoli

Members of the Youth League, Bombay



Sardar as President of Karachi Congress declared, "there is no receding from Lahore Resolution of complete independence"





Picture taken consequent to Gandhi-Irwin pact at the residence of Balkrishna Chandiwalla in 1931. Sitting (L-R): Imam Saheb (Abdul Khadir Bawazir), Dr Ansari, Sardar Patel, Jawaharlal Nehru, Dr Syed Mahmud, Shri J M. Sen Gupta. Standing (L-R): Shri Sri Prakash, Dr Rajendra Prasad, Shri Mahadevbhai Desai, Shri. C Rajagopalachari, Dr Pattabhi Sitaramaiya, Shri. Shiv Prasad Gupta, Shri Shankarlal Banker, Shri Arun Guha. Standing, Back side: Shri Prabhu Dayal, 2 & 3 satyagrahis, Rev.Koreishi, Shri B. Rajulal, Shri Pyarelal Nayar, Shri Ram Gopal, Shri Govind Malaviya, Sheth Jamnalal Bajaj, Shri Gopinath Janbari, Shri Faridulha Ansari, Shri Jain, Shri Upadhyaya (P S to Pt. Nehru), Shri Banvarilal, Seth Motilal, Lala Ram Swarup, Shri Ghansi Ram and other national leaders.

S.N. 21367

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સર્વજ્ઞ મહારાજ સાહેબ
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Superintendent
Sardar Central
(Poona)

Sardar's letter dated May 29, 1933 to
Gandhiji when the latter broke his fast

"At this auspicious moment both of us (Vallabhbhai and
Chhaganlal Joshi) seek your blessings. God has indeed been
immensely kind, but now I beg of you, be kind to us."

Central Prison.
Nank Road
Superintendent.
Nank Road Central Prison.
8 Nov. 1973

My dear Jawaharlal

I had received the
your message for of condolence
from you Kamala and Sasagandini
and I must thank you all for
the same

This time Jali has been very
very unkind to me and I have
had some terrible blows one
after another ~~being~~ ~~my~~
~~brother's death~~ ~~that~~ At first
my dear old mother died
in May 1932 and soon after

though he is now quite alright
again. Now comes on top of all
this the hands blown in
my brother's death in a foreign
country. It is so sad to think
that we shall meet no more
He was very unwilling to go
out to India this time but
Jali took him away and
~~delivered~~ ~~for him~~ ~~in~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~
for four days before his death
but this - ~~from~~ ~~only~~ ~~at~~ ~~last~~
~~death~~ ~~on~~ ~~the~~ ~~same~~ ~~day~~
~~delivered~~ ~~to~~ ~~me~~ ~~by~~ ~~the~~ ~~XX~~ ~~for~~
more for his death at a
place where ~~there~~ ~~was~~
~~was~~ ~~the~~ ~~body~~ ~~he~~ ~~found~~

The abundance of deep sympathy
from many gentle's mothers
has been in my solicitude and
your message has given me
great consolation. Please convey
my thanks to Kamala. About
Lala Gindharil for his very kind
letter

How is mother now?
I am so glad Krishna has
found her permanent home in

life. After that he himself
was laid up with typhoid for
a very long time and as one
time during his illness we
had all lost, hopes were
done if our Ahimsachand friend
was so unkind that they
kind to me for allowing
them to secure his release
of Manik on parole for
some time. I could not agree
to their proposal and Manik
was also not willing to go
out on parole. Fortunately
however he got over his
illness and although ~~he~~ ~~took~~

aggravated and you have now been
relieved of one of your heavy
responsibilities.

His Lady gone to Vileparle
as is she still at Alibabha

I hope Kamala has now
recovered and is able to
move about freely.

How is your health?

Do write to me all
about you and your family
tell you are free to do so.

I am alright

Yours
Vasabhai

Sardar Patel's letter to Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru



Congress Working Committee, 1934



At the Congress Working Committee meeting in 1934



Sardar Patel with Gandhiji visiting Borsad, during plague



With Gandhiji, Subhash Babu and others at Haripura Congress



Sardar Patel with Gandhiji during 1945 Shimla Conference



Walking out of the prison Maulana Azad, Jawaharlal Nehru, Shankar Rao Deo, J. B. Kripalani, Rajendra Prasad and Sardar Patel

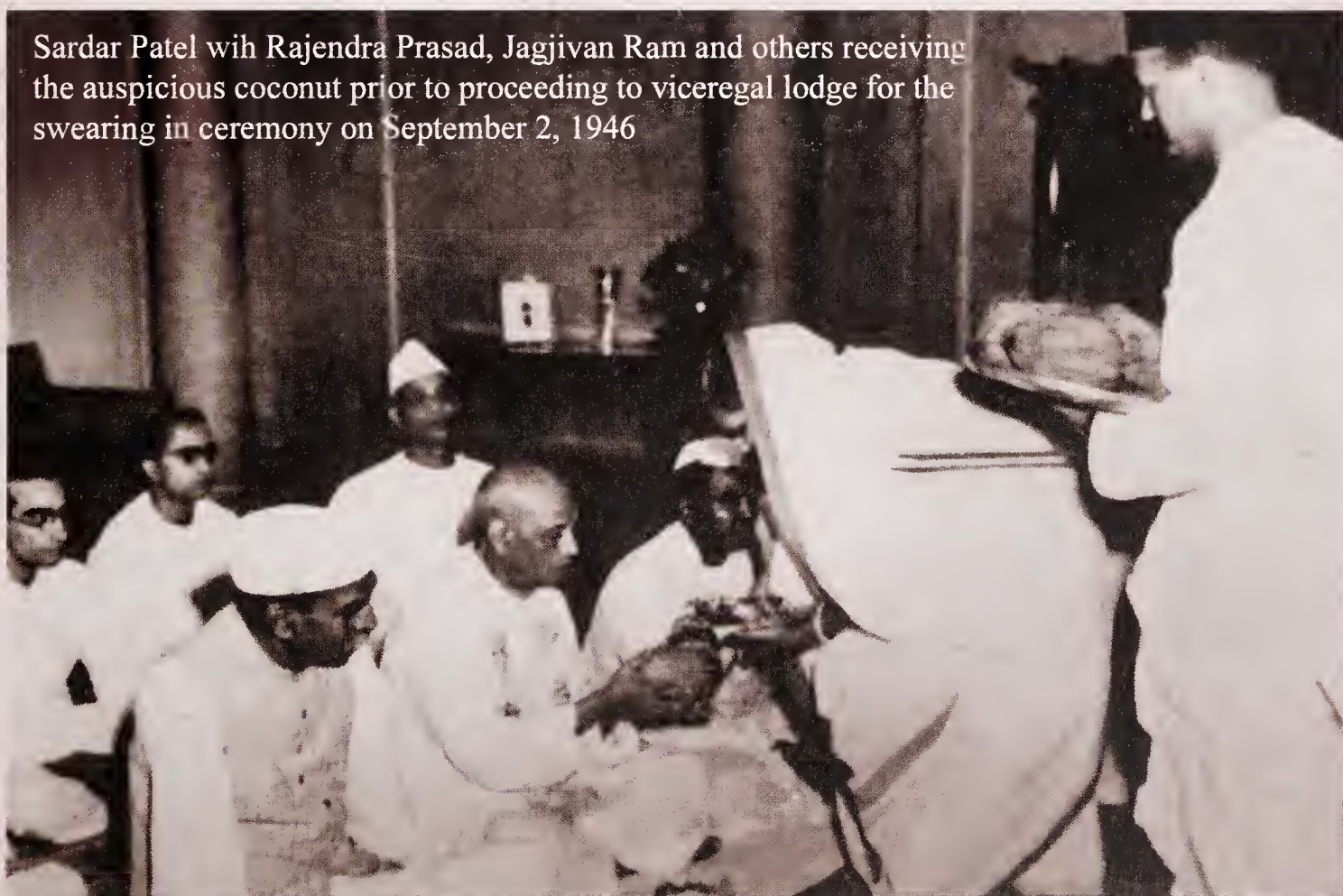


Members of interim Government after assuming office on September 2, 1946 (L-R): Sarat Chandra Bose, Jagjivan Ram, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Vallabhbhai Patel, Asaf Ali, Jawaharlal Nehru and Syed Ali Zaheer

Sardar Patel
with Swami
Ramanand Tirth



Sardar Patel with Rajendra Prasad, Jagjivan Ram and others receiving
the auspicious coconut prior to proceeding to viceregal lodge for the
swearing in ceremony on September 2, 1946



AFTER INDEPENDENCE



During the swearing in of Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru as the first Prime Minister of free India





First President of India Dr Rajendra Prasad administering the oath of office to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel as the first Home Minister



Taking the oath of office as Deputy Prime Minister, August 15, 1947



Signing of Constitution by Sardar Patel, John Mathai
and Jairamdas Doulatram, January 26, 1950



With Mahatma Gandhi and Mahadev Desai, (Gandhiji's Secretary) in Bombay



Sardar Patel with Jugatram Adev and Uttamchand Shah
at a Mass Spinning Programme, January 1949



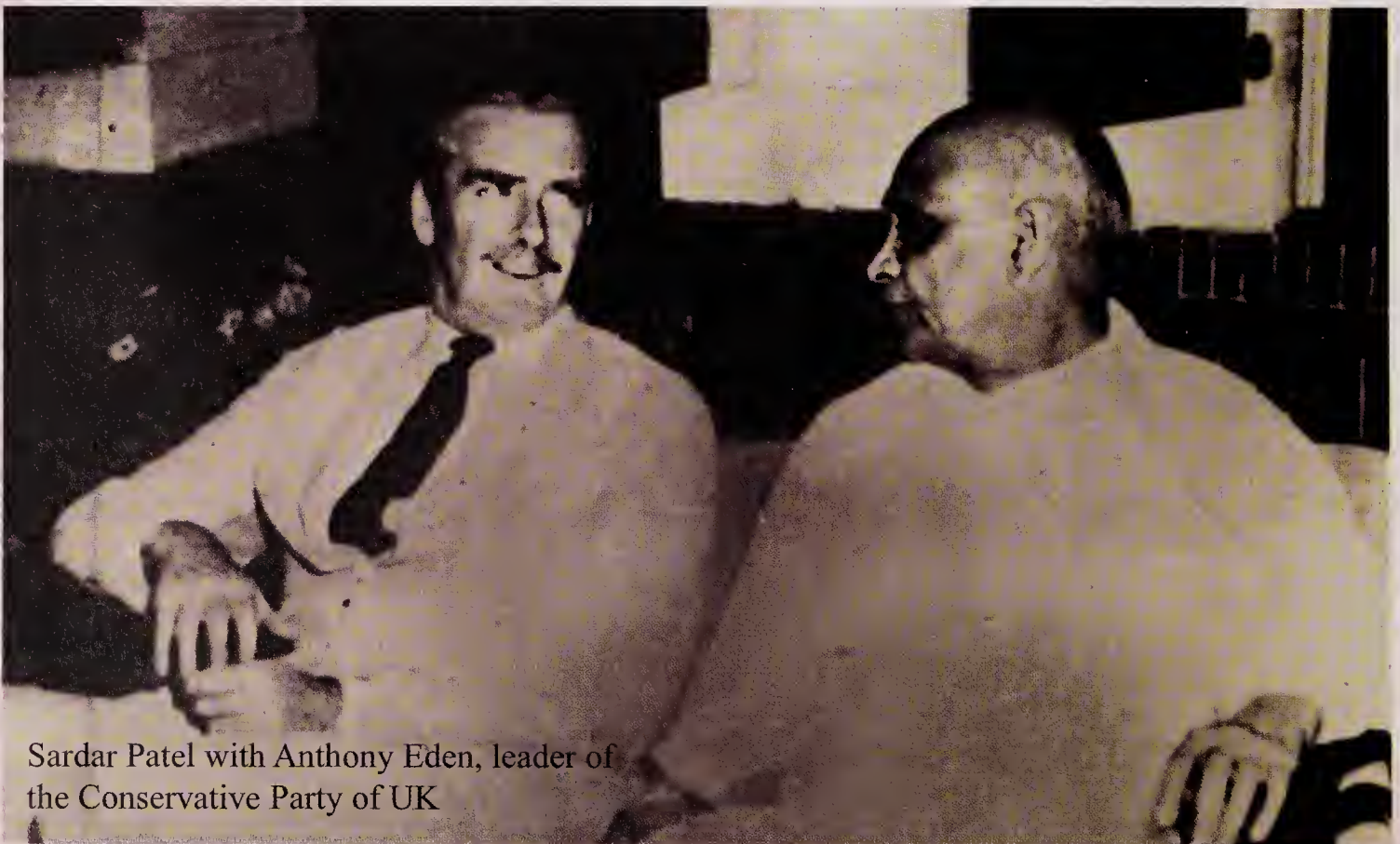
President Rajendra Prasad in an animated discussion with
Nehru and Patel at Rashtrapati Bhavan

"...a friend and colleague on whom one could invariably rely...a tower of strength which revived wavering hearts..."

Jawaharlal Nehru



Sardar Patel with Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru



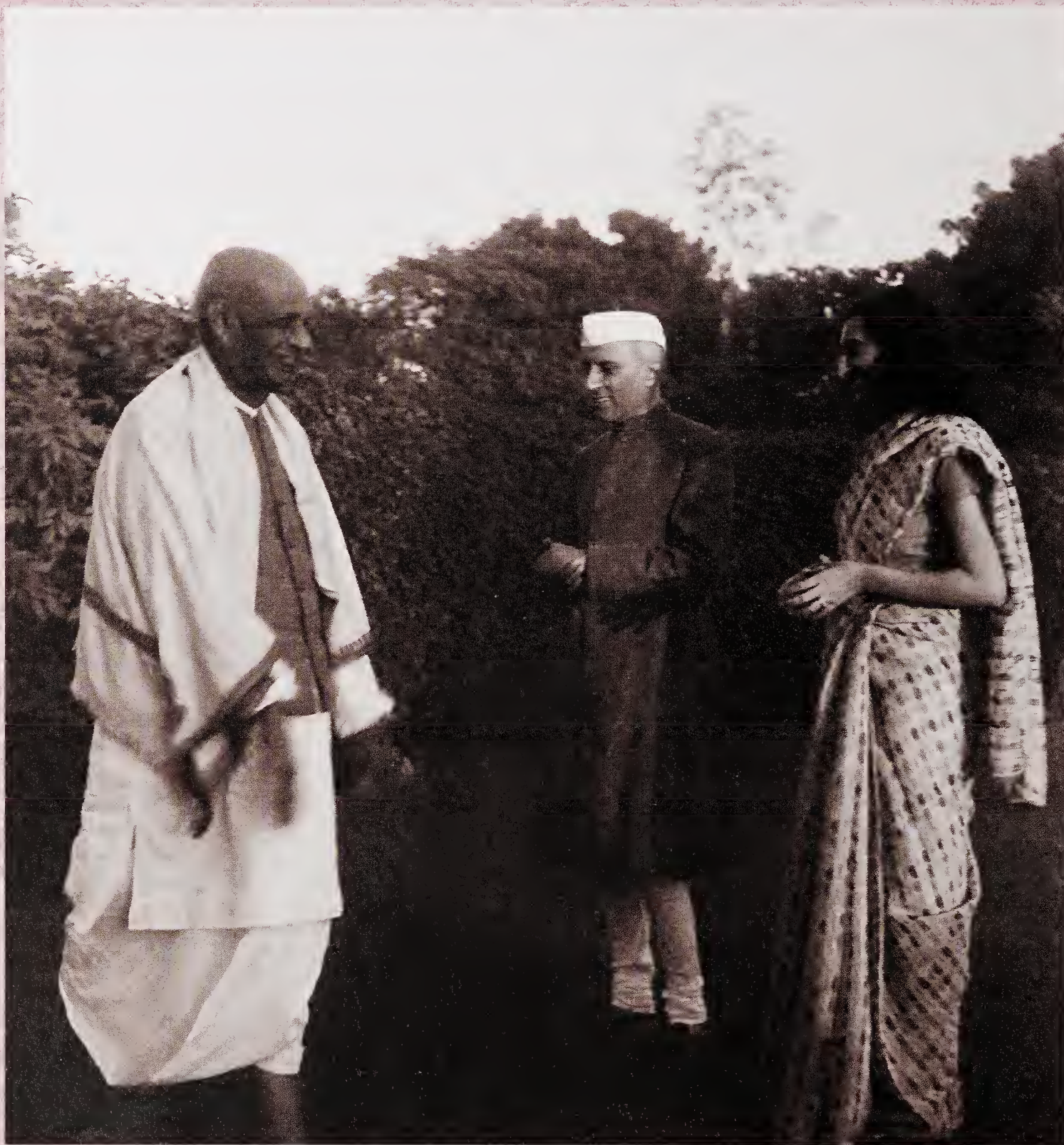
Sardar Patel with Anthony Eden, leader of the Conservative Party of UK



Major General J N Chaudhary, Sardar Patel , the Nizam and V Shankar



Sardar Patel discussing problems of refugees with the rulers of Bharatpur, Patiala and Alwar, 1947



Deputy Prime Minister Sardar Patel with Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Smt. Indira Gandhi at a reception held by him in honour of the delegates to the Asian Regional Conference in New Delhi in November, 1947



Governor-General Shri C. Rajagopalachari with Sardar Patel and Maniben, at a reception held in Government House, New Delhi in November, 1947



Sardar Patel, Gandhiji and Nehru on a morning walk at Sevagram, Wardha



Sardar Patel with Mahadevbhai Desai, Gandhiji and Maniben



With workers of South India on the occasion of
welcome address of Tanjore Municipality



Sardar Patel with Maulana Azad



Sardar Patel with T.K. Ghosh



With Saurashtra Cabinet and rulers of Saurashtra states



Sardar Patel administering oath of office to Jam Saheb as the Rajapramukh of Union of Saurashtra states, February 15, 1948



Deputy Prime Minister Sardar Patel,
Governor-General Rajaji and Prime Minister
Nehru with Governors of states during
Governors' Conference in New Delhi





Patel with Jam Saheb of Nawanagar ,1948



With Governor-General Rajaji and other members of the Cabinet

With Lady and Lord Mountbatten at
their farewell in Mussoorie





During the inauguration of Patiala and East Punjab States Union (PEPSU), July 15, 1948



Amidst sportsmen, Jaipur Maharaja and Hanumantsinhji



Sardar Patel with G D Birla and
Maniben in Pilani, 1948



With the workers at Bardoli



Conferring of Degree of Doctor of Law by
Allahabad University, November 1948



Receiving a felicitation volume from G B Pant in the presence of Sarojini Naidu,
Allahabad, November 1948



Sardar Patel with Maharaja of Baroda, Shri Pratapsingh Rao Gaikwad and Dr Jivraj Mehta



Patel with peasants and workers of Rajasthan at Chittor, January 1949



Sardar Patel with Thakkar Bapa

JOURNEYS
TO WEAVE THE
COUNTRY TOGETHER



On his visit to Nagpur in December, 1947



Inspecting Guard of Honour at Nagpur, December 1947



Sardar Patel with Maniben in Nagpur



Sardar Patel at a reception held in his honour at Government House, Nagpur

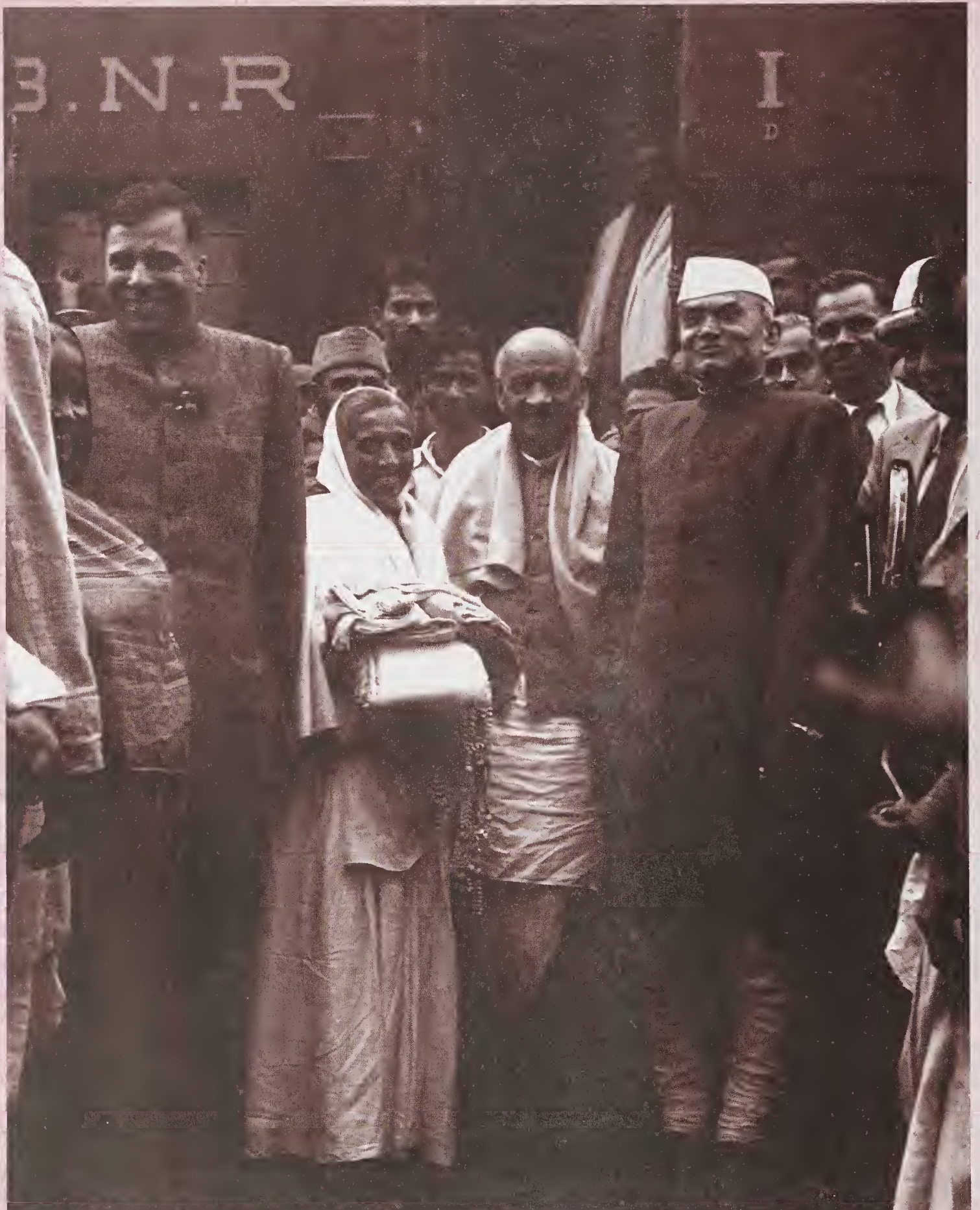




Inspecting Guard of Honour at Cuttack, December 1947



Sardar Patel during his visit to Cuttack in December, 1947



Sardar Patel in Cuttack, December, 1947



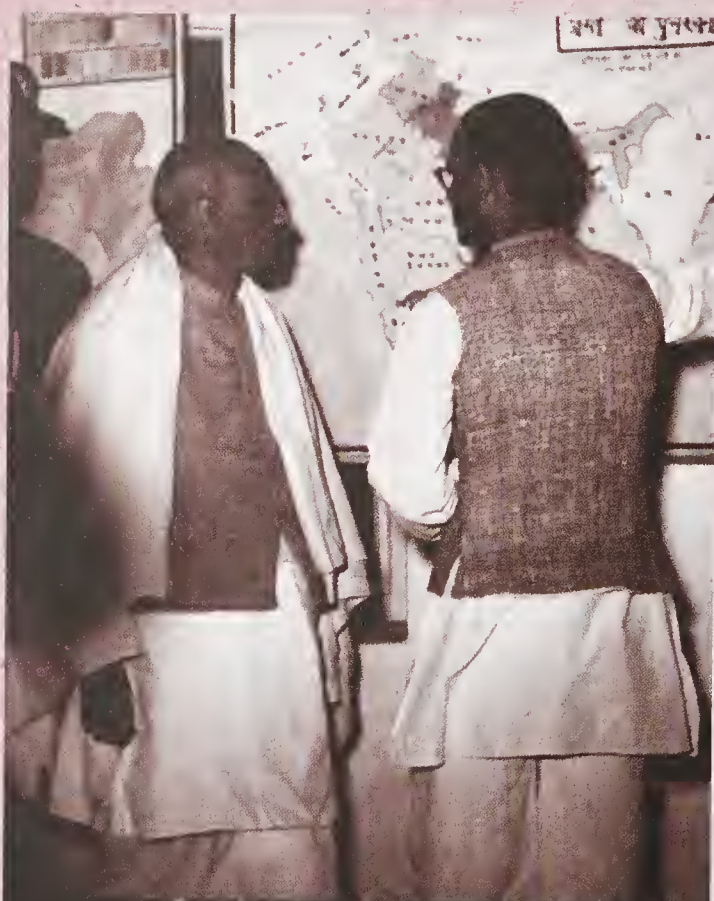
At a meeting during his Orissa visit

At a party in his honour at Cuttack Government House,
December, 1947





At Banasthali Vidyapeeth in Jaipur, December, 1947



Visit to Banasthali Vidyapeeth in Jaipur



Sardar Patel with the Maharaja of Jaipur, December, 1947



Inspecting a Guard of Honour presented to him
during his visit to Calcutta, January, 1948



With Maniben during his Calcutta visit

Addressing the Assam Regiment
at Happy Valley, January 1948





Inspecting a Guard of Honour during
his visit to Shillong, January, 1948



Meeting army personnel during his Shillong visit, January 1948

Sardar Patel and Maniben with army personnel in Shillong



Going around during his visit to Shillong



Being welcomed at Patna aerodrome on his arrival, January 26, 1948



Inspecting a Guard of Honour at Patna aerodrome, January 26, 1948



At the tea party hosted by the Premier of Bihar during his visit to Patna, January 1948



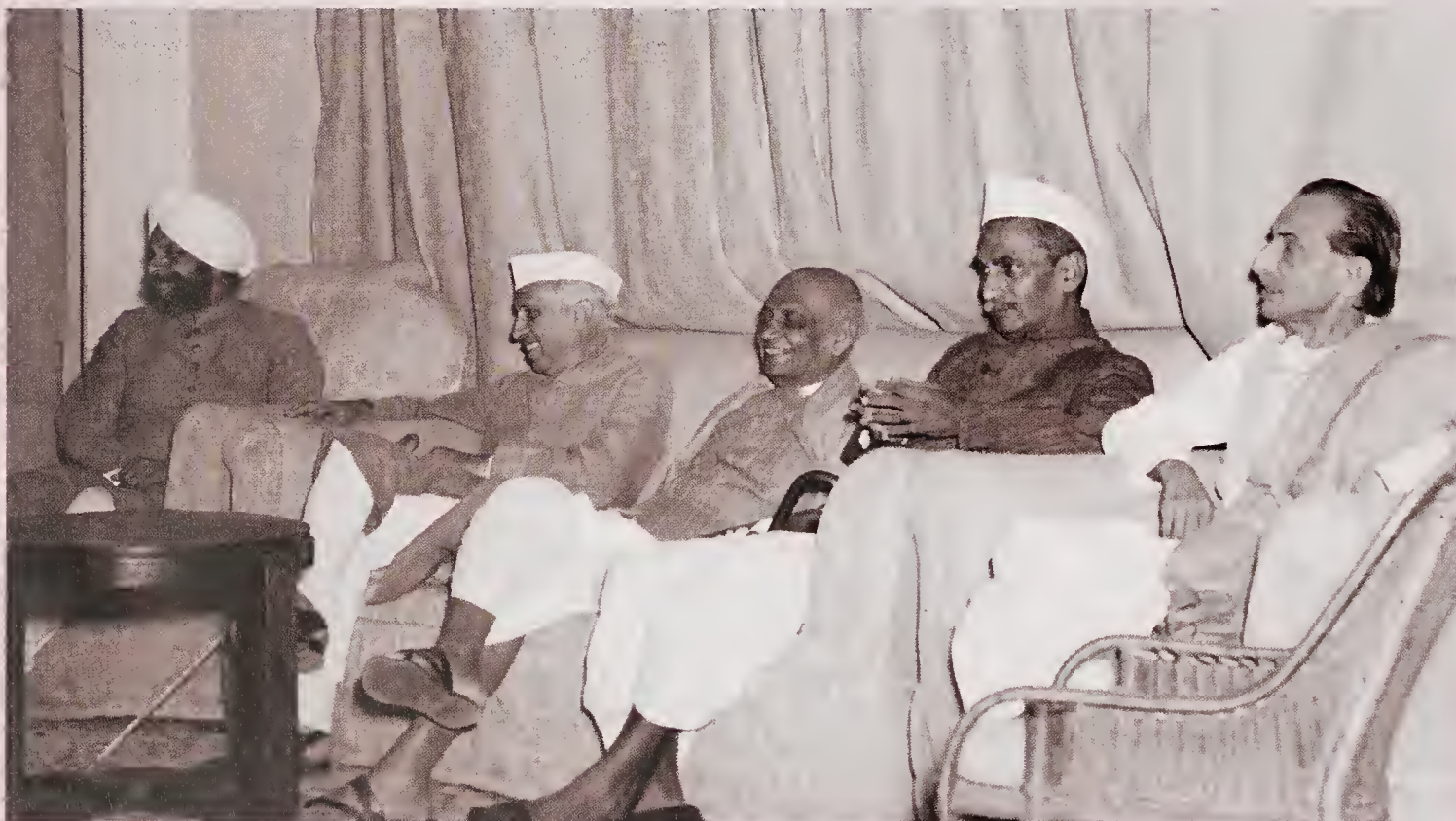
Sardar Patel at the
Lucknow aerodrome,
January 27, 1948



Planting a tree in the Government
House during his Lucknow visit



At the Conference of Industrialists held in Mussoorie in May, 1948, in connection with the Gandhi Memorial Fund



With Prime Minister Nehru and President Rajendra Prasad during the Conference of Industrialists in Mussoorie



Welcomed by Sheth Kasturbhai Lalbhai at Ahmedabad Airport

THE LAST JOURNEY



Eternal sleep, December 15, 1950



The Last Journey, December 15, 1950



Glimpse of the urns containing holy ashes of Sardar Patel, December 28, 1950



Ashes of Sardar Patel
being immersed at Prayag,
December 28, 1950



Work is undoubtedly worship but laughter is life
Sardar Patel



PUBLICATIONS DIVISION
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA



Price: ₹ 220.00

ISBN 978-81-230-1982-6

BIO-ENG-REP-059-2014-15